

In the Claims

- 1.-16. (Cancelled)
17. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 33, wherein the plug and tube can be interlocked.
18. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 33, further comprising a connecting means integral with the sleeve.
19. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim ~~[[33]]~~ 18, wherein the connecting means is a divisible clamp.
20. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim ~~[[33]]~~ 18, wherein the physical transformation is a rupture or tear of the connecting means.
21. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 33, wherein interlocking of the sleeve is made by irreversibly sliding the tube into the sleeve.
22. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 33, wherein the sleeve and the tube are made of different materials.
23. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 33, wherein the sleeve is composed of a material that allows engraving an indelible and unitary identification.
24. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim 23, wherein the sleeve is composed of a material that allows reading of ~~the~~ elevated engraving.
25. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 18, wherein the connecting means is a tongue that can be integrated in a definitive and non-replaceable manner with the sleeve and the plug.
26. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 25, wherein integration of the tongue is carried out with an adhesive band that can not be violated by tearing.

27. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 25, wherein integration of the tongue is carried out by welding.

28. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim 23, further comprising an a housing that allows insertion of a physical insertable element containing at least one piece of information associated with ~~the~~ contents of the tube.

29. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 28, wherein insertion is carried out without masking the identification engraving and in an irreversible manner.

30. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 28, wherein insertion is carried out without masking the identification engraving and in an irreversible manner.

31. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 28, wherein insertion is carried out in an irreversible manner.

32. (Cancelled)

33. (Currently Amended) A unit that receives biological specimens comprising:
a sleeve;

a tube shaped and sized to contain biological specimens and to slide into the sleeve and provided with a system that interlocks the sleeve on the tube in ~~a single direction~~ at first and second levels positions; and

a plug; ~~having an opening~~;

wherein, after interlocking at in the first level position, the sleeve is irreversibly integrated to the tube ~~in a single direction~~ and biological specimens can be inserted in the tube, and,

after interlocking at in the second level position, accessing the biological specimens causes an irreversible and visible the opening of the plug brings about a physical transformation of the sleeve, and but not of the plug~~[[,]]~~ the physical transformation being irreversible and visible.

34. (New) A unit for receiving biological specimens comprising:

a tube shaped and sized to receive the biological specimens;

a sleeve provided with at least one breakable catch;

a plug;

wherein the tube comprises:

a first catch that integrates the sleeve to the tube in an irreversible manner; and

a second catch such that, after interlocking of the second catch, subsequent opening of the tube causes irreversible and visible breakage of the breakable catch.

35. (New) A unit for receiving biological specimens comprising:

a tube shaped and sized for receiving the biological specimens;

a sleeve comprising an interlocking system that interlocks the sleeve on the tube at first and second positions and an individual breakable clamp for each of the two positions, the rupture of which is irreversible and visible; and

a plug;

wherein interlocking the sleeve at the first position irreversibly integrates the sleeve with the tube and removal of the plug irreversibly breaks the first clamp, allowing free movement of the plug, and wherein interlocking at the second position requires an irreversible and visible breakage of the second clamp for plug removal.